# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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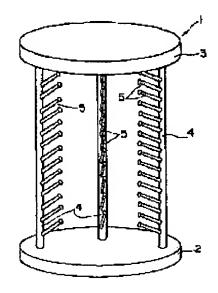
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#### (54) VERTICAL WAFER PORT

#### (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a wafer port which can suppress wafer damages caused by deformation when the port is subjected to such a load stress as deformation by its own weight or to a thermal process.

SOLUTION: In a vertical wafer port 1 for supporting semiconductor wafers within a vertical heat treatment furnace, bottom and top plates 2 and 3 of the port 1 are fixedly supported by at least three poles 4, the poles 4 is arranged in the vicinity of the outer peripheries of the bottom and top plates 2 and 3 as spaced by a predetermined interval from each other. The poles 4 is provided in its inner peripheral side of the port 1 with a plurality of grooves spaced by a predetermined interval, support pins 5 each having a predetermined length and having a curved tip end are fitted into the grooves as slanted. A semiconductor wafer is carried by the curved tip ends of the support pins 5 fitted into the poles 4 positioned on an identical plane parallel to the bottom plate 2. Upper parts of the curved tip ends carrying the semiconductor wafer have at least a semi-spherical shape, a semi-ellipsoidal shape having a major axis



extended in an inside central direction of the port or a curved shape forming parts thereof.

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#### **CLAIMS**

# [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] While being a vertical mold wafer boat for carrying out support installation of the semi-conductor wafer within a vertical mold heat treating furnace, fixing a bottom plate and top plating with at least three stanchions and arranging this stanchion at intervals of predetermined near the periphery of this bottom plate and top plating Two or more slots at predetermined spacing are established in each inside peripheral surface inside [ boat ] this stanchion, respectively. Horizontally, by the predetermined acute angle, incline up and fitting arrangement of the support pin which has predetermined die length in each slot, and has a curved-surface-like point is carried out. A semi-conductor wafer is supported by this curved-surface-like point of this support pin by which fitting arrangement was carried out into the slot of each strut located on the same flat surface parallel to this bottom plate. The vertical mold wafer boat characterized by coming at least to form the upper part of this curved-surface-like point that supports this semi-conductor wafer hemispherical, the half-ellipse globular shape which comes to allot a major axis in the direction of a boat inside core, or in the shape of [ those / a part of ] a curved surface.

[Claim 2] The vertical mold wafer boat according to claim 1 said whose acute angle is about 1 degree or less.

[Claim 3] The vertical mold wafer boat according to claim 1 or 2 which comes to form the shape of said curved surface in a support pin and one.

[Claim 4] For the shape of said curved surface, claims 1-3 which it comes to form with a flexibility ingredient are the vertical mold wafer boats of a publication either.

[Claim 5] Claims 1-4 located in (radius R) x0.65-0.8 from the core of the wafer which the point of said support pin supports are the vertical mold wafer boats of a publication either.

[Claim 6] Claims 1-5 in which it comes to form said support pin with quartz glass, silicon carbide, or silicon at least in said vertical mold wafer boat are the vertical mold wafer boats of a publication either.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

# [Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to a vertical mold wafer boat, in detail, even if it is the case where it deforms by heat treatment, it does not damage a wafer rear face, but prevents a rearrangement and slip generating, and relates to the vertical mold wafer boat which can offer the outstanding wafer in which after heat treatment does not have damage while it eases the stress to the wafer by heat treatment in a vertical mold heat treating furnace.

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally, as for semi-conductor wafers, such as a silicon wafer, various kinds of heat treatments, such as oxidation, diffusion, and a deposit, are performed within the reactor core tube. The furnace of either a horizontal-type furnace and a vertical mold furnace is used, these heat treatments also double the wafer boat for wafer loading used with a furnace type, and the thing of a horizontal type and a vertical mold is used. Since the configuration member of heat treating furnaces, such as a reactor core tube and a wafer boat, was also enlarged and the weight increased with major-diameterizing of a semi-conductor wafer in recent years, it became a problem that there is a possibility that it may become impossible by a heat creep etc. using each configuration member in a horizontal-type furnace. Therefore, a vertical mold furnace with little generating of the evil produced at the above horizontal-type furnaces is used widely.

[0003] The vertical mold wafer boat is constituted so that a wafer can be loaded into a lengthwise direction. The conventional vertical mold wafer boat is formed as shown in the explanatory view of drawing 10. In drawing 10, two or more retention groove 14 is mostly formed in regular intervals at the wafer boat medial surface of each strut 13, a wafer boat 10 is supported by the retention groove 14 of the same height of each strut 13 at the same time a bottom plate 11 and top plating 12 are supported with four stanchions 13, and the processed silicon wafer SW is laid. Where two or more silicon wafers are laid in predetermined, the vertical mold wafer boat 10 is held in a vertical mold heat treating furnace, and is heat-treated. Usually each configuration member of a vertical mold wafer boat is formed with ingredients, such as quartz glass, SiC, and silicon, for the pollution control of a wafer.

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] When each silicon wafer is held at the retention groove of the above-mentioned conventional vertical mold wafer boat, as the flat-surface explanatory view of the condition is shown in drawing 11 (a) and a side elevation is shown in (b), respectively, four peripheries of a silicon wafer SW are supported on the base of the retention groove 14. On the other hand, the load stress by self-weight acts on a silicon wafer SW in the direction of an arrow head shown in drawing 11 (b). In this case, drawing 12 is a \*\* type explanatory view at the time of the silicon wafer SW supported by the retention groove being bent by self-weight etc., bends in the direction of an arrow head, and serves as a line in edge 14E of the retention groove, or point support from the flat-surface support on base 14S of the retention groove. Therefore, the load stress of a self-weight will concentrate on edge 14E. Moreover, it does not restrict that the silicon wafer periphery section is equally supported by the retention groove of each strut, but there is also a possibility that a wafer self-weight may concentrate locally too much. Being easy to damage the rear face of a silicon wafer SW in a part with these loads concentration, a damage part becomes the cause of generating a slip and a rearrangement in subsequent processing, moreover, by being heattreated, a silicon wafer SW is a \*\* type explanatory view in which the silicon wafer SW with which thermal expansion was carried out, for example, drawing 13 was supported by the retention groove expands by heat treatment etc., and it expands in the direction of an arrow head so that it is alike and may be shown.

Therefore, a silicon wafer side has a possibility that it may grind against base 14S of the retention groove, and may be damaged, and becomes the cause of generating a slip and a rearrangement similarly. Moreover, when the silicon wafer which the slip and the rearrangement generated is used for a substrate, since the final device engine performance falls, the silicon wafer which the damage constituting such a slip or the cause of a rearrangement produced is removed by the production process. For this reason, the installation to a wafer boat causes damage and these inconvenient wafer boats that are not are called for directly with regards to the fall of the manufacture yield of a silicon wafer.

[0005] the damage which becomes the above slip and the cause of a rearrangement from the former especially when it heat-treats using the same wafer boat as said former as it is since a self-weight increases by major-diameter-ization of a silicon wafer in recent years as carried out -- being generated -- being easy -- a manufacture yield also falls further. This invention aims at preventing damage on the silicon wafer produced when it lays in the above-mentioned conventional wafer boat and processes [heat treatment] etc. as much as possible. Artificers completed the wafer boat of a header and this invention for the support installation structure of a silicon wafer where the rear face of a silicon wafer is not damaged even if it is the case where could prevent the deflection which is made to distribute the self-weight stress of a wafer as much as possible, and is produced, and a deflection and deformation arise, as a result of examining the supporting section of the silicon wafer of a wafer boat wholeheartedly in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose.

[Means for Solving the Problem] While according to this invention being a vertical mold wafer boat for carrying out support installation of the semi-conductor wafer within a vertical mold heat treating furnace, fixing a bottom plate and top plating with at least three stanchions and arranging this stanchion at intervals of predetermined near the periphery of this bottom plate and top plating Two or more slots at predetermined spacing are established in each inside peripheral surface inside [ boat ] this stanchion, respectively. Horizontally, by the predetermined acute angle, incline up and fitting arrangement of the support pin which has predetermined die length in each slot, and has a curved-surface-like point is carried out. A semiconductor wafer is supported by this curved-surface-like point of this support pin by which fitting arrangement was carried out into the slot of each strut located on the same flat surface parallel to this bottom plate. The vertical mold wafer boat characterized by coming at least to form the upper part of this curved-surface-like point that supports this semi-conductor wafer hemispherical, the half-ellipse globular shape which comes to allot a major axis in the direction of a boat inside core, or in the shape of [ those / a part of ] a curved surface is offered.

[0007] In the vertical mold wafer boat of above-mentioned this invention, it is desirable that said acute angle

is about 1 degree or less. Moreover, the shape of a curved surface can be formed in a support pin and one, or it can be formed with a flexibility ingredient. Furthermore, it is desirable to be located in the (radius R) x0.65-0.8 from the core of the wafer which the point of a support pin supports. Furthermore, it is desirable that a support pin is formed with quartz glass, silicon carbide, or silicon at least again. [0008] The vertical mold wafer boat of this invention is constituted as mentioned above, since it is the point of the support pin by which the part which carries out support installation of the silicon wafer was prolonged in the boat inside from the stanchion unlike the retention groove of the conventional wafer boat, by adjusting the die length of the support pin, can be supported in the predetermined bore section of the direction of a core from the periphery section of a silicon wafer, and can prevent the deflection by the self-weight to which the major-diameter wafer increased. Moreover, since it can be made to correspond to the various wafers with which paths differ by adjusting the die length of a support pin, the number of arrangement of a stanchion, arrangement spacing, etc. according to the path of a processed wafer, it cannot be based on the size of the diameter of a wafer, but field support can fully be carried out. Furthermore, since the fitting slot of a support pin is formed in a predetermined include angle, from being slightly set upward, since the support pin is level, and making the wafer installation side of the point of a support pin into the shape of a ball, or the shape of a curved surface of ellipse spherical \*\*, a wafer can be supported at the flat surface which always has predetermined area, and a wafer rear face is not damaged, either. Moreover, even if a

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, this invention is explained in detail based on a drawing. Drawing 1 is the outline strabism explanatory view of one example of the vertical mold wafer boat concerning this invention, and drawing 2 is the partial enlarged drawing of drawing 1. It sets to drawing 1 and drawing 2, and a bottom plate 2 and top plating 3 are being fixed by the vertical mold wafer boat 1 with the stanchion 4

silicon wafer deforms with heat etc., field support can fully be secured from a support pin having

[00091

predetermined die length, and a point having a predetermined area.

of three long pictures like the aforementioned conventional vertical mold wafer boat. With spacing predetermined to the longitudinal direction of each strut 4, fitting is carried out to the slot (not shown) where two or more support pins 5 were formed in the inside peripheral surface of a stanchion 4 removable, and it has whenever [ tilt-angle ] acutely up, and is arranged. <u>Drawing 2</u> is the partial enlarged drawing of the support pin 5 by which fitting arrangement was carried out at the stanchion 4, and each support pin 5 has the spherical-surface-like point 6. As for whenever [ inclination acute-angle / of a support pin ], in the vertical mold wafer boat of this invention constituted as mentioned above, considering as 0-1 degree is desirable. It is because a processed wafer can be supported by the point of a support pin by making a support pin incline by the acute angle up. Moreover, it is not necessary to make a support pin not necessarily incline, it may be level, and can be supported in the inside periphery section of a processed wafer by forming for example, the point spherical surface in convex in that case. If whenever [ inclination acute-angle ] becomes large exceeding 1 degree, the quantity of the wafer which can be loaded into the boat of predetermined die length decreases and is not desirable. Whenever [ tilt-angle / of a support pin ] can be suitably chosen with the magnitude of the diameter of a wafer generally supported, the die length of a support pin, the configuration of a support pin point, etc. In addition, what was illustrated exaggerates and expresses whenever [ tilt-angle ].

[0010] What is necessary is not to be restricted to the slot on the stanchion especially as an approach of making the support pin arranged possible [desorption] inclining, and just to be able to arrange a support pin in the wafer boat of above-mentioned this invention, in the above-mentioned predetermined include angle of 0-1 degree. For example, by whenever [ upward acute-angle / of a support pin ], and, whenever [ same acute-angle], the slot formed in a stanchion may be made to incline caudad, and may be formed, a slot is formed horizontally, and the pin part which continues from the slot fitting section of a support pin is made to incline at a predetermined include angle, and it may form it. Moreover, several sorts of slots where whenever [ tilt-angle ] differ the slot which carries out fitting of the support pin formed in each strut in this case can be made to be able to adjoin, it can form as a lot, and each class can be prepared in a stanchion 4 at intervals of predetermined. By having embraced the gestalt of a processed silicon wafer, shifting by this, and choosing that slot, whenever [ tilt-angle / of a support pin ] can be changed and the support location of a wafer can be changed. Moreover, when the slot established in a stanchion is formed horizontally, whenever [ tilt-angle / of a pin part ] can be changed, several sorts can be prepared beforehand, and a support pin part can also be changed and used according to the conditions at that time. By changing whenever [ upward tiltangle / of a support pin ] as mentioned above, the die length of a support pin can be fixed and the support location of a wafer can be changed. As for especially a support pin, it is desirable like the conventional general wafer boat each configuration member of the vertical mold wafer boat of this invention and to be formed with ingredients, such as quartz glass, SiC, and silicon.

[0011] Installation support of a silicon wafer is supported in the periphery part inside the periphery of a wafer as compared with the method with which the vertical mold wafer boat of this invention lays the periphery section of a silicon wafer in the retention groove which is the point 6 of the support pin 5 substantially, and is prepared in the stanchion of the conventional wafer boat as mentioned above. Since it is compared with support by the periphery section, and can carry out distributed relaxation of the load stress of a self-weight, since this supporting section is suitably changed with the die length and the include angle of the support pin 5, and the point 6 of the support pin 5 is formed spherically, even if a silicon wafer carries out thermal expansion, the damage depended for rubbing decreases. Furthermore, field support can be secured, without becoming the line or point support by the edge of retention groove like before, even when the deflection by heat deformation or self-weight arises. For this reason, it is hard to produce damage at the rear face of the laid silicon wafer, and the slip and rearrangement resulting from damage can be controlled. [0012] In this invention, a processed silicon wafer is supported in the inside periphery section by the point of a support pin. As the \*\* type explanatory view was shown in drawing 3 in this case, it is desirable that there is a radius r of the periphery part I inside the silicon wafer SW supported by the point 6 of the support pin 5 by 0.65 to 0.8 times, i.e., the relation of r=Rx0.65-0.8, the radius R of a silicon wafer SW. Usually, it is set as about 0.7. If the radius r of this inner circle passes from a core by less than 0.65 times of the radius R of a silicon wafer, the periphery section of a silicon wafer will bend with a self-weight, and stress will concentrate near a silicon wafer core. Moreover, if it becomes a periphery twist exceeding 0.8 times, like periphery support of the conventional wafer boat, the deflection of a self-weight of a wafer will become large and it will become easy to produce damage. Whenever [ die-length / of the support pin 5 / and tiltangle ] is set up so that the point 6 of the support pin 5 may be located in the inner periphery I of a silicon wafer SW and can support Wafer SW as mentioned above. In this case, although the magnitude of a wafer

boat and the physical relationship of a stanchion change with the heat treating furnaces which set boats, such as a reactor core tube, and change the die length of a support pin according to it, by locating a point in the inner periphery I of the predetermined range of the silicon wafer laid as mentioned above, they prevent the deflection by self-weight etc. and can control generating of damage.

[0013] In this invention, when supporting as mentioned above in the predetermined inner periphery location of an installation silicon wafer, as shown in drawing 1, it is supported by three supporting points of the point 6 of three support pins 5 which carry out fitting arrangement in at least three slots on the stanchion mostly located in the same horizontal plane. The point 6 of each three support pins 5 divides mostly a disclike bottom plate 2 and top plating 3 into three equally at equal intervals, and it is made to usually become theta = about 120 degrees that what is necessary is to divide the spacing theta of this supporting point at equal intervals mostly, and just to arrange it, as shown in drawing 3 R> 3. Moreover, for example, drawing 4 is the outline strabism explanatory view of other examples of the vertical mold wafer boat of this invention, and stanchions 4 are four things. In this case, it is theta= 90 degrees in spacing of the supporting point of the point 6 of each support pin 5. What is necessary is just to change suitably the location of the slot which the large inlet-port part which inserts a wafer into a boat is taken [ slot ] at about 120 degrees for insertion of a wafer, and each strut arranged to the other periphery is made [ slot ] into regular intervals, and carries out fitting arrangement of the support pin 5 so that spacing of the supporting point in the point of the support pin 5 may become about 90 degrees when the stanchion 4 which arranges the support pin 5 is four or more. In this invention, the number of arrangement of this stanchion is so good that make it fluctuate if needed, it can choose suitably, it generally fluctuates suitably according to the path of a silicon wafer and a wafer becomes a major diameter to increase the number of arrangement of a stanchion. When the number of stanchions increases, it is because [ a supporting section being able to increase, being able to distribute load stress more, and decreasing the deflection of a self-weight ] can carry out things. Usually, the numbers of stanchions are 3-5. As mentioned above, a silicon wafer SW is laid on the point of at least three support pins arranged at equal intervals, and can be supported stably and certainly. For this reason, even if a silicon wafer SW major-diameter-izes, self-weight stress can be eased, generating of a deflection can be controlled, it is hard to generate damage at the rear face of a silicon wafer SW, and the slip rearrangement resulting from damage can be prevented.

[0014] As described above, when the include angle of a support pin, die length, and spacing of a supporting point are set as predetermined and a silicon wafer is supported, the wafer boat of this invention can ease the self-weight stress of a silicon wafer, and can prevent generating of a deflection. Moreover, it is desirable to form a point on the other hand, in the point of the support pin which supports a silicon wafer substantially, so that it may contact in a field. By supporting a silicon wafer by the point 6 of the corpuscle of the support pin 5 as it indicated to <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> that described above, it can respond flexibly to deformation by a self-weight deflection, curvature, etc. of a silicon wafer as compared with the conventional retention-groove support. However, when a point 6 is formed in a corpuscle, if it sees in micro, it will be point support at the contact of a corpuscle side and a silicon wafer, and if it compares with support by the retention groove of the conventional stanchion, although it is support on the periphery inside a silicon wafer and being excelled in the correspondence to self-weight deflection control or deformation, damage cannot be prevented completely.

[0015] therefore, this invention -- setting -- a silicon wafer -- among those, as for the configuration of the point of the support pin which is supported in the periphery section and which both supports a silicon wafer substantially, it is desirable to form in a configuration which carries out field contact with the silicon wafer laid. For example, drawing 5 is the flat-surface explanatory view (a) showing the relation between the point of the support pin of the wafer boat of this invention, and the silicon wafer laid, and its B-B line crosssection explanatory view (b). In drawing 5, the point 6 of a support pin (not shown) is ellipsoid 6b, and contact installation of the silicon wafer is carried out on the surface-of-action C side of the front face on the perpendicular minor axis Z of the main shafts X, Y, and Z of ellipsoid 6b. This ellipsoid 6b is the die length x of main shafts X, Y, and Z, and y and z, its die-length z of vertical axes Z is short, and it is an ellipsoid flat at x=y, a surface of action C is a circle configuration mostly, although it is a minute side in the silicon wafer SW laid on that front face, it contacts in respect of being bigger than a corpuscle, and field support of it is carried out. Therefore, even when thermal expansion is carried out or it bends, while the silicon wafer heattreated, in order that the surface of action C of a wafer rear face and the front face of point ellipsoid 6b moreover may not carry out small deer change continuously, the support load of the silicon wafer SW per unit area which acts on a support pin point decreases, and it is hard coming to generate damage at the wafer rear face.

[0016] In this invention, although especially elliptical [ of the point 6 of the above-mentioned support pin 5 ] is not limited, the major axis which can do greatly the surface of action C with the rear face of a silicon wafer SW is long, and the thing with the large radius of curvature of the front face in which a silicon wafer is laid which has a large touch area is desirable. For example, drawing 6 is the flat-surface explanatory view (a) showing the physical relationship of the point of other support pins, and the silicon wafer laid, and its side-face explanatory view (b). In drawing 6, the point 6 of a support pin (not shown) is ellipsoid 6c, and the major axis is arranged in accordance with the direction of a core of a silicon wafer. For this reason, the volume of the ellipsoid of a point can be made smaller than the above-mentioned ellipsoid 3b. Moreover, as shown in drawing 7, what cut the inferior surface of tongue horizontally only as an upper half of a part in which a wafer is laid for the ellipsoid of the above-mentioned ellipsoids 6b and 6c may be used. All can aim at reduction of a manufacturing cost. Furthermore, in this invention, as not only a shape of above corpuscle, ellipsoid, hemispherical object, and half-ellipsoid but those parts are sufficient, for example, it is shown in a front view at drawing 8 (a) at a cross-section explanatory view and (b) that the point of a support pin should just form the part which lays a silicon wafer at least in the shape of a curved surface, the point 6 of the support pin 5 should just be formed in 6d of smooth surfaces.

[0017] The wafer boat of this invention forms in a curved surface the point of the support pin which carries out installation maintenance of the processed silicon wafer substantially, and carries out field support of the silicon wafer while arranging it so that the supporting point of the point of the support pin which carries out fitting arrangement may serve as regular intervals in the slot on the stanchion as described above. Thus, the load stress to a silicon wafer is mitigated and generating of damage by the self-weight deflection or deformation can be prevented. Moreover, even if it adopts the support method of the above silicon wafers, it does not have thermal effect on the heat treating furnace which arranges a wafer boat. Moreover, in the wafer boat of this invention, since the heat capacity of a support pin can be stopped by making the size of the above-mentioned support pin thin, deformation of the wafer which equalizes the temperature distribution within a silicon wafer side, and is produced during heat treatment can be prevented.

[0018] The wafer boat of this invention can offer the wafer in which uses for a heat treating furnace as mentioned above, thermal effect does not have, either, and damage was excellent few. On the other hand, in order to lay in the point of a support pin and to support a wafer, the contact stress by contact in a wafer rear face increases. A silicon wafer is difficult for using as a double-sided mirror, especially major-diameterizing, for example, a wafer with a diameter [phi] of 300mm, and avoiding generating of the surface discontinuity by contact to a support pin point to a mirror side on the back, and there is a possibility of generating a blemish with contact stress. Therefore, to lay a double-sided mirror wafer in the wafer boat of this invention, in order to cancel this point, it is necessary to decrease contact stress and to apply. Generally it can ask for this best osculation stress (p0) with the formula (1) of the following Hertz (Hertz). p03= P/pi-P/R 0 {(1-nu12)/E1+ (1-nu22)/E2} 2 (1)

Here, P is the full load of a supporting point, and R0. The radius of curvature of a supporter, and E1 And nu 1 The Young's modulus of a wafer, a Poisson's ratio, and E2 And nu 2 The Young's modulus and the Poisson's ratio of support are shown. It is the best osculation stress p0 so that clearly from the formula (1) of this Hertz. A value is the radius of curvature R0 of a supporter. Best osculation stress p0 since it is in inverse proportion It is R0 in order to make it small. It enlarges and is Young's modulus E2 of support. What is necessary is just to make it small.

[0019] The above-mentioned best osculation stress p0 In order to make it decrease, the approximate account Fig. of a concrete example was shown in drawing 9. In drawing 9, fibrous flexibility ingredients, such as glass fiber, are surrounded in the shape of a curved surface, the edge is fixed to a support pin by stops 8, respectively, and the flexible curved surface 7 is formed in the point 6 of the support pin 5 formed with high grade silicon compounds, such as quartz glass. In this case, if needed, the flexible curved-surface configuration 7 carries out smooth [ of the front face ] by thermoforming etc., and can carry out things. Moreover, after carrying out the spinning and weaving of the flexible fiber to cloth or a network and considering as a smooth nonwoven fabric, a point 6 may be covered in the shape of [ predetermined ] a curved surface, and the flexible curved surface 7 may be formed. In this case, what is necessary is to make the point 6 of the support pin 5 into the curved-surface configuration of the shape of the shape of a corpuscle, or an ellipsoid as mentioned above, to be still the configuration of a support pin and just to form it in the ellipsoid configuration where a curved-surface radius is big, by covering or envelopment. By forming the point of a support pin in the flexible curved surface 7 with a flexibility ingredient as mentioned above, radius of curvature is large and it is Young's modulus E2 of support. A value can be made small and the contact stress on the rear face of a mirror wafer can be reduced.

[0020]

[Effect of the Invention] The vertical mold wafer boats of this invention differ in the wafer boat supported by the retention groove prepared in the conventional stanchion, it is the point of the support pin extended in the boat from the stanchion, and since it supports in the periphery section inside [ predetermined ] a wafer, even if a wafer is major-diameter-ized, load stress is reduced as compared with periphery single support, and they can prevent the deflection by self-weight. Moreover, by forming the point which supports a wafer substantially in the shape of a curved surface, since field contact is carried out and it supports, while comparing with one-point concentration and easing load stress, even when it bends with self-weight stress or deforms during heat treatment, change also serves as a wafer with the minimum continuously, and support can control damaging the rear face of a wafer with it. Therefore, while a manufacture yield improves, a slip of a crystal and generating of a rearrangement can decrease, the wafer of high quality can be offered, and the dependability to the device of high performance also becomes high.

[0021] Moreover, whenever [ arrangement spacing / of a stanchion / location / of the retention groove /, and tilt-angle / of a support pin ], by setting die length and spacing as predetermined suitably, stability and since it can lay on a support pin certainly, workability and a manufacture yield improve a silicon wafer further. Furthermore, since envelopment formation of the point of a support pin is carried out with a flexibility ingredient at a predetermined configuration, even if it reduces contact stress and lays the double-sided mirror wafer of a major-diameter-ized wafer, generating of the crystal defect in a mirror side is mitigable.

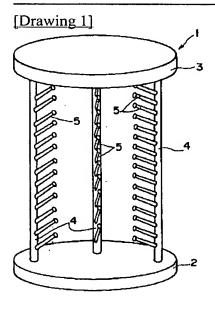
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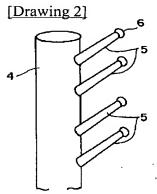
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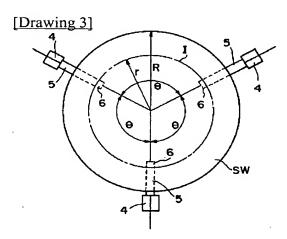
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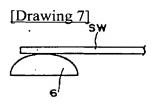
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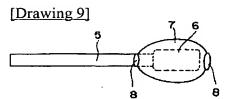
## **DRAWINGS**

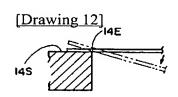


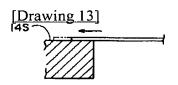




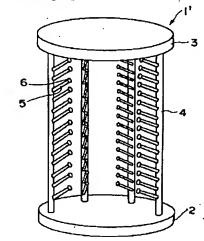


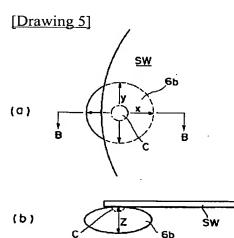




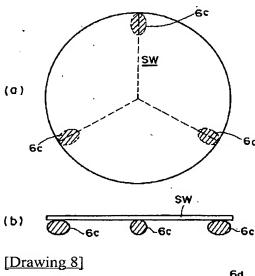


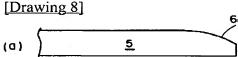
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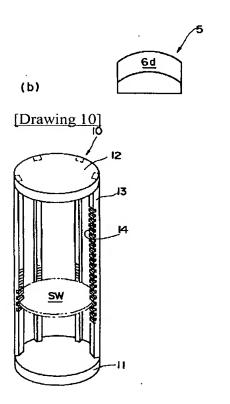




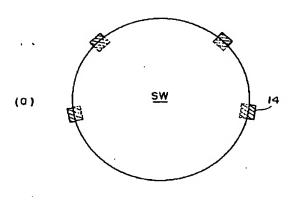


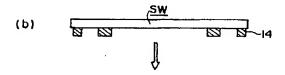






[Drawing 11]





[Translation done.]

# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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**053841** (71)App

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(22)Date of filing: 20.02.1997

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# (54) VERTICAL WAFER PORT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a wafer port which can suppress wafer damages caused by deformation when the port is subjected to such a load stress as deformation by its own weight or to a thermal process.

SOLUTION: In a vertical wafer port 1 for supporting semiconductor wafers within a vertical heat treatment furnace, bottom and top plates 2 and 3 of the port 1 are fixedly supported by at least three poles 4, the poles 4 is arranged in the vicinity of the outer peripheries of the bottom and top plates 2 and 3 as spaced by a predetermined interval from each other. The poles 4 is provided in its inner peripheral side of the port 1 with a plurality of grooves spaced by a predetermined interval, support pins 5 each having a predetermined length and having a curved tip end are fitted into the grooves as slanted. A semiconductor wafer is carried by the curved tip ends of the support pins 5 fitted into the poles 4 positioned on an identical plane parallel to the bottom

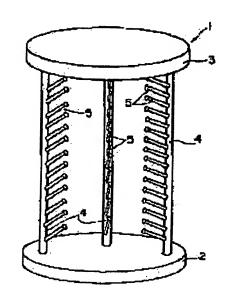


plate 2. Upper parts of the curved tip ends carrying the semiconductor wafer have at least a semi-spherical shape, a semi-ellipsoidal shape having a major axis extended in an inside central direction of the port or a curved shape forming parts thereof.

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rejection

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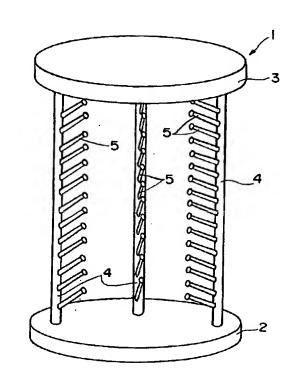
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(21)出願番号	特願平9-53841	(71)出願人 000221122
(22) 出顧日	平成9年(1997)2月20日	東芝セラミックス株式会社 東京都新宿区西新宿1丁目26番2号 (72)発明者 竹田 隆二
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		最終頁に続く

# (54)【発明の名称】 縦型ウエハポート

#### (57)【要約】 (修正有)

ウエハポートへの載置において自重によるた わみ等の荷重応力や熱処理時の変形のために発生する損 傷を抑制した縦型ウエハポートの提供。

【解決手段】 縦型熱処理炉内で半導体ウエハを支持載 置するための縦型ウエハボートであって、底板と頂板と が少なくとも3本の支柱で固定され、該支柱が該底板及 び頂板の外周近傍に所定間隔で配置されると共に、該支 柱のポート内側の各内側周面にそれぞれ所定間隔で複数 の溝が設けられ、各溝には所定の長さを有し且つ曲面状 先端部を有する支持ピンが、水平に又は所定鋭角で上方 に傾斜されて嵌合配置されており、該底板に平行な同一 平面上に位置する各支柱の溝に嵌合配置された該支持ピ ンの該曲面状先端部で半導体ウエハを支持し、該半導体 ウエハを支持する該曲面状先端部の上部が、少なくとも 半球状、ボート内側中心方向に長軸を配してなる半楕円 球状、または、それらの一部の曲面状に形成する。



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#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 縦型熱処理炉内で半導体ウエハを支持載置するための縦型ウエハボートであって、底板と頂板とが少なくとも3本の支柱で固定され、該支柱が該底板及び頂板の外周近傍に所定間隔で配置されると共に、該支柱のボート内側の各内側周面にそれぞれ所定間隔で複数の溝が設けられ、各溝には所定の長さを有し且つ曲面状先端部を有する支持ピンが、水平に又は所定鋭角で上方に傾斜されて嵌合配置されており、該底板に平行な同一平面上に位置する各支柱の溝に嵌合配置された該支持ピンの該曲面状先端部で半導体ウエハを支持し、該半導体ウエハを支持する該曲面状先端部の上部が、少なくとも中球状、ボート内側中心方向に長軸を配してなる半楕円球状、または、それらの一部の曲面状に形成されてなることを特徴とする縦型ウエハボート。

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【請求項2】 前記鋭角が約1°以下である請求項1記載の縦型ウエハボート。

【請求項3】 前記曲面状が支持ピンと一体に形成されてなる請求項1または2記載の縦型ウエハボート。

【請求項4】 前記曲面状が、柔軟性材料により形成されてなる請求項1~3のいずれか記載の縦型ウエハボート。

【請求項5】 前記支持ピンの先端部が、支持するウエハの中心から半径(R) $\times$ 0.65 $\sim$ 0.8に位置する請求項1 $\sim$ 4のいずれか記載の縦型ウエハボート。

【請求項6】 前記縦型ウエハボートにおいて、少なくとも前記支持ピンが石英ガラス、炭化ケイ素またはシリコンで形成されてなる請求項1~5のいずれか記載の縦型ウエハボート。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は縦型ウエハボートに関し、詳しくは、縦型熱処理炉内における熱処理によるウエハへの応力を緩和すると共に、熱処理により変形した場合であってもウエハ裏面を損傷せず転位やスリップ発生を防止し、熱処理後も損傷のない優れたウエハを提供できる縦型ウエハボートに関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来、シリコンウエハ等の半導体ウエハは、炉芯管内で酸化、拡散、析出等の各種の熱処理が施されている。これらの熱処理は、横型炉及び縦型炉のいずれかの炉が用いられ、使用されるウエハ積載用のウエハボートも炉型に合わせて横型及び縦型のものが用いられている。近年、半導体ウエハの大径化に伴って、炉芯管、ウエハボート等の熱処理炉の構成部材も大型化してその重量が増大したことから、横型炉における各構成部材が熱クリープ等により使用不能となるおそれがあることが問題となった。そのため、上記のような横型炉で生じる弊害の発生が少ない縦型炉が広く用いられるようになっている。

【0003】縦型ウエハボートは、ウエハを縦方向に積載できるように構成されている。従来の縦型ウエハボートは、例えば、図10の説明図に示したように形成されている。図10において、ウエハボート10は、底板11及び頂板12が4本の支柱13により支持されると同時に、各支柱13のウエハボートの側面にほぼ等間隔に複数の保持溝14が設けられ、被処理シリコンウエハSWは各支柱13の同一高さの保持溝14に支持されて載置されるようになっている。縦型ウエハボート10は複数のシリコンウエハが所定に載置された状態で縦型熱処理炉内に収容され熱処理される。縦型ウエハボートの各構成部材は、ウエハの汚染防止のため石英ガラス、SiC、シリコン等の材料により形成するのが通常である。【0004】

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【発明が解決しようとする課題】上記した従来の縦型ウ エハボートの保持溝に各シリコンウエハが保持される場 合、図11(a)にその状態の平面説明図を、(b)に 側面図をそれぞれ示すように、シリコンウエハSWの外 周4か所が保持溝14の底面上に支持される。一方、シ リコンウエハSWには、図11(b)に示した矢印方向 に自重による荷重応力が作用する。この場合、例えば、 図12は保持溝に支持されたシリコンウエハSWが自重 等でたわむ際の模式説明図であり、矢印方向にたわみ保 持溝の底面14S上の平面支持から保持溝の縁端部14 Eでの線または点支持となる。そのため、自重の荷重応 力が緑端部14Eに集中することになる。また、各支柱 の保持滯にシリコンウエハ外周部が均等に支持されると は限らず、過度にウエハ自重が局部的に集中するおそれ もある。これら荷重集中があった箇所で、シリコンウエ ハSWの裏面が損傷し易く、損傷箇所は、その後の処理 でスリップや転位を発生させる原因となる。また、加熱 処理されることによりシリコンウエハSWは熱膨張し、 例えば、図13は保持溝に支持されたシリコンウエハS Wが熱処理等で膨張する模式説明図であり、に示すよう に矢印方向へ膨張する。そのため、シリコンウエハ裏面 は保持溝の底面145で擦られて損傷するおそれがあ り、同様にスリップや転位を発生させる原因となる。ま た、スリップや転位が発生したシリコンウエハを基板に 用いた場合は、最終的なデパイス性能が低下するとされ ていることから、そのようなスリップや転位の原因とな る損傷が生じたシリコンウエハは製造工程で取除かれ る。このためウエハポートへの載置が損傷の原因とな り、シリコンウエハの製造歩留りの低下に直接関係し、 それら不都合のないウエハポートが求められる。

【0005】特に、前記したように近年のシリコンウエハの大径化により、自重が増大することから従来と同様のウエハボートをそのまま用いて熱処理した場合は、従来より以上のスリップや転位の原因となる損傷等が生じ易くなり、製造歩留も一層低下する。本発明は、上記従来のウエハボートに載置して熱処理等の処理した場合に

生じるシリコンウエハの損傷等を極力防止することを目的とする。発明者らは上記目的を達成するべく、ウエハボートのシリコンウエハの支持部分について鋭意検討した結果、ウエハの自重応力をできるだけ分散させて生じるたわみを防止でき、また、たわみや変形が生じた場合であってもシリコンウエハの裏面を損傷することのないシリコンウエハの支持載置構造を見出し、本発明のウエハボートを完成した。

#### [0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明によれば、縦型熱処理炉内で半導体ウエハを支持載置するための縦型ウエハボートであって、底板と頂板とが少なくとも3本の支柱で固定され、該支柱が該底板及び頂板の外周近傍に所定間隔で配置されると共に、該支柱のボート内側の各内側周面にそれぞれ所定間隔で複数の溝が設けられ、各溝には所定の長さを有し且つ曲面状先端部を有する支持に対が、水平に又は所定鋭角で上方に傾斜されて嵌合配置されており、該底板に平行な同一平面上に位置する各支柱の溝に嵌合配置された該支持ピンの該曲面状先端部の半導体ウエハを支持し、該半導体ウエハを支持する該半導体ウエハを支持し、該半導体ウエハを支持する該半導体ウエハを支持し、該半導体ウエハを支持する。

【0007】上記本発明の縦型ウエハボートにおいて、前記鋭角が約1°以下であることが好ましい。また、曲面状が支持ピンと一体に形成されることができ、または、柔軟性材料により形成されることができる。更に、支持ピンの先端部が、支持するウエハの中心からその半径(R) $\times$ 0.65 $\sim$ 0.8に位置することが好ましい。更にまた、少なくとも支持ピンが石英ガラス、炭化ケイ素またはシリコンで形成されることが好ましい。

【0008】本発明の縦型ウエハボートは上記のように 構成され、シリコンウエハを支持載置する部分が従来の ウエハポートの保持溝と異なり、支柱からポート内側に 延びた支持ピンの先端部であることから、その支持ピン の長さを調整することによりシリコンウエハの外周部よ り中心方向の所定の内径部で支持することができ、大径 ウエハの増大した自重によるたわみを防止することがで きる。また、径の異なる各種ウエハに対しては、被処理 ウエハの径に合わせて支持ピンの長さ、支柱の配置数及 び配置間隔等を調整することにより対応させることがで きることから、ウエハ径の大小によらず充分に面支持す ることができる。更に、支持ピンの嵌合溝を所定角度に 形成することから、支持ピンが水平から僅かに上向きに セットされ、また、支持ピンの先端部のウエハ載置面を 球状や楕円球状等の曲面状とすることからも、ウエハを 常に所定面積を有する平面で支持でき、ウエハ裏面を損 傷することがない。また、たとえ熱等によりシリコンウ エハが変形しても支持ピンが所定長さを有し、且つ、先 50 端部も所定の面積を有することから充分に面支持を確保 することができる。

#### [0009]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明について図面に基づ き詳しく説明する。図1は本発明に係る縦型ウエハボー トの一実施例の概略斜視説明図であり、図2は図1の部 分拡大図である。図1及び図2において、縦型ウエハボ ート1は、前記の従来の縦型ウエハポートと同様に、底 板2及び頂板3が3本の長尺の支柱4で固定されてい る。各支柱4の長手方向には所定の間隔をもって複数の 支持ピン5が、支柱4の内側周面に設けられた溝(図示 せず)に着脱可能に嵌合され上方に鋭角に傾斜角度を有 して配置されている。図2は、支柱4に嵌合配置された 支持ピン5の部分拡大図であり、各支持ピン5は球面状 の先端部6を有する。上記のように構成される本発明の 縦型ウエハボートにおいて、支持ピンの傾斜鋭角度は0 ~1°とするのが好ましい。支持ピンを上方に鋭角で傾 斜させることにより被処理ウエハを支持ピンの先端部で 支持できるためである。また、支持ピンは必ずしも傾斜 させる必要はなく水平であってもよく、その場合は、例 えば、先端部球面を凸状に形成することにより、被処理 ウエハの内側円周部で支持することができる。傾斜鋭角 度が1。を超えて大きくなると所定長さのボートに積載 できるウエハの数量が減少し好ましくない。支持ピンの 傾斜角度は、一般に支持するウエハ径の大きさ、支持ピ ンの長さ、支持ピン先端部の形状等により適宜選択する ことができる。なお、図示したものは傾斜角度を誇張し て表わしたものである。

【0010】上記本発明のウエハボートにおいて、支柱 の溝に脱着可能に配置される支持ピンを傾斜させる方法 としては特に制限されるものでなく、上記の $0 \sim 1$ °の 所定角度に支持ピンを配置できればよい。例えば、支柱 に形成する溝を支持ピンの上向き鋭角度と同一鋭角度で 下方に傾斜させて形成してもよいし、溝は水平に形成 し、支持ピンの溝嵌合部から連続するピン部分を所定角 度で傾斜させて形成してもよい。また、この場合、例え ば、各支柱に形成する支持ピンを嵌合させる溝を、傾斜 角度の異なる数種の溝を隣接させて一組として形成し、 各組を所定間隔で支柱4に設けることができる。これに より、被処理シリコンウエハの形態に応じていずれかの 溝を選択することで、支持ピンの傾斜角度を変化させて ウエハの支持位置を変えることができる。また、支柱に 設ける溝を水平に形成した場合は、ピン部分の傾斜角度 を変化させて予め数種を用意し、そのときの条件に応じ て支持ピン部分を替えて用いることもできる。上記のよ うに支持ピンの上向き傾斜角度を変化させることによ り、支持ピンの長さを一定にしてウエハの支持位置を変 化させることができる。本発明の縦型ウエハボートの各 構成部材、特に、支持ピンは、従来の一般的ウエハボー トと同様に、石英ガラス、SiC、シリコン等の材料に

より形成されることが好ましい。

【0011】本発明の縦型ウエハボートは、上記のようにシリコンウエハの載置支持は実質的に支持ピン5の先端部6であり、従来のウエハボートの支柱に設ける保持構にシリコンウエハの外周部を載置する方式に比較して、ウエハの外周より内側の円周部分で支持される。この支持部分は、支持ピン5の長さ及び角度により適宜を化させることから、外周部による支持に比し自重のがが状に形成されることから、シリコンウエハが熱膨張した形成されることから、シリコンウエハが熱膨張しても擦れによる損傷は減少される。更に、熱変形や自軍によるたわみが生じた場合でも、従来のような保持薄を確保することができる。このため載置されたシリコンウエハの裏面に損傷が生じにくく、損傷に起因するスリップや転位を抑制することができる。

【0012】本発明において、被処理シリコンウエハは 支持ピンの先端部で内側の円周部で支持される。この場 合、例えば、図3に模式説明図を示したように、支持ピ ン5の先端部6で支持するシリコンウエハSWの内側の 20 円周部分Ⅰの半径 r が、シリコンウエハSWの半径 R の 0.65~0.8倍、即ちr=R×0.65~0.8の 関係にあることが好ましい。通常、約0.7に設定す る。この内円の半径 r が、シリコンウエハの半径 R の 0.65倍未満で中心よりすぎると、シリコンウエハの 外周部が自重によりたわみ、シリコンウエハ中心付近に 応力が集中する。また、0.8倍を超えて外周よりとな ると従来のウエハボートの外周支持と同様に、ウエハの 自重のたわみが大きくなり損傷が生じ易くなる。上記の ように支持ピン5の先端部6が、シリコンウエハSWの 内円周Iに位置してウエハSWを支持できるように、支 持ピン5の長さ及び傾斜角度を設定する。この場合、ウ エハボートの大きさや支柱の位置関係は、炉芯管等のボ ートをセットする熱処理炉により変化し、それに応じて 支持ピンの長さを変化させるが、上記のように載置する シリコンウエハの所定範囲の内円周 I に先端部を位置さ せることにより、自重によるたわみ等を防止して損傷の 発生を抑制できる。

【0013】本発明において、上記のように載置シリコンウエハの所定の内円周位置で支持する場合、図1に示40したように少なくとも3本の支柱の、ほぼ同一水平面に位置する溝に嵌合配置する3本の支持ピン5の先端部6の3つの支持点によって支持される。この支持点の間隔 $\theta$ は、ほぼ等間隔に分割して配置すればよく、通常、図3に示したように3本の各支持ピン5の先端部6が、円板状の底板2及び頂板3をほぼ等間隔に3等分し、 $\theta$ =約120°となるようにする。また、例えば、図4は本発明の縦型ウエハボートの他の実施例の概略斜視説明図であり、支柱4が4本のものである。この場合は各支持ピン5の先端部6の支持点の間隔 $\theta$ =90°である。支50

持ピン5を配置する支柱4が4本以上の場合は、ウエハ をボート内に挿入する入口部分は、ウエハの挿入のため に約120°に広くとり、それ以外の周部に配置する各 支柱を等間隔とし、支持ピン5を嵌合配置させる溝の位 置を、支持ピン5の先端部での支持点の間隔が約90° となるように適宜変化させればよい。本発明において、 この支柱の配置数は必要に応じて増減させて適宜選択す ることができ、一般に、シリコンウエハの径に応じて適 宜増減し、ウエハが大径になるほど支柱の配置数を増や すのがよい。支柱数が増加することにより、支持部分が 増え荷重応力をより分散させることができ自重のたわみ を減少させることできるためである。通常、支柱数は3 ~5である。上記のように、シリコンウエハSWは、等 間隔に配置された少なくとも3つの支持ピンの先端部上 に載置され、安定且つ確実に支持することができる。こ のため、シリコンウエハSWが大径化しても、自重応力 を緩和してたわみの発生を抑制することができ、シリコ ンウエハSWの裏面に損傷の発生しにくく、損傷に起因 するスリップ転位を防止できる。

【0014】上記したように、本発明のウエハボート は、支持ピンの角度、長さ、支持点の間隔を所定に設定 してシリコンウエハを支持した場合、シリコンウエハの 自重応力を緩和してたわみの発生を防止することができ る。また一方、シリコンウエハを実質的に支持する支持 ピンの先端部において、面で接触するように先端部を形 成するのが好ましい。前記したように図1及び図2に示 したような支持ピン5の小球の先端部6でシリコンウエ ハを支持することにより、従来の保持溝支持に比してシ リコンウエハの自重たわみや反り等による変形に対して 柔軟に対応することができる。しかし、先端部6を小球 に形成した場合、ミクロ的にみれば小球面とシリコンウ エハとの接点での点支持であり、従来の支柱の保持溝に よる支持に比較すればシリコンウエハの内側の円周での 支持であり自重たわみ抑制や変形への対応に優れるが、 完全に損傷を防止できるものでない。

【0015】従って、本発明において、シリコンウエハをその内円周部で支持する共に、実質的にシリコンウエハを支持する支持ピンの先端部の形状は、載置されるシリコンウエハと面接触するような形状に形成することが好ましい。例えば、図5は、本発明のウエハボートの支持ピンの先端部と載置されるシリコンウエハとの関係を示す平面説明図(a)及びそのB-B線断面説明図

(b) である。図5において、支持ピン(図示していない)の先端部6が楕円体6 bで、且つ、楕円体6 bの主軸X、Y、Zの垂直短軸Z上の表面の接触領域C面上でシリコンウエハが接触載置される。この楕円体6 bは、主軸X、Y、Zの長さx、y、z で、垂直軸Zの長さzが短く、x=y で扁平な楕円体であり、接触領域Cはほぼ円形状であり、その表面上に載置されるシリコンウエハSWとは微小面ではあるが小球より大きな面で接触し

て面支持される。従って、シリコンウエハが熱処理中に 熱膨張したり、たわんだ場合でも、ウエハ裏面と先端部 楕円体6bの表面の接触領域Cが連続的にしかも僅かし か変化しないため、支持ピン先端部に作用する単位面積 当たりのシリコンウエハSWの支持荷重が低減し、ウエ ハ裏面に損傷が発生しにくくなる。

【0016】本発明において、上記支持ピン5の先端部 6の楕円形状は特に限定されるものではないが、シリコ ンウエハSWの裏面との接触領域Cが大きくできる長軸 が長く、シリコンウエハを載置する表面の曲率半径が大 10 きく接触面積が広いものが好ましい。例えば、図6は、 他の支持ピンの先端部と載置されるシリコンウエハとの 位置関係を示す平面説明図(a)及びその側面説明図

(b) である。図6において、支持ピン(図示していな い)の先端部6が楕円体6cで、且つ、その長軸がシリ コンウエハの中心方向と一致して配置されている。この ため先端部の楕円体の体積を、上記の楕円体3bより小 さくできる。また、図7に示すように、上記楕円体6 b、6cの楕円体をウエハを載置する部分の上半分のみ として下面を水平に切断したものでもよい。いずれも製 造コストの低減を図ることができる。更に、本発明にお いて、支持ピンの先端部は、少なくともシリコンウエハ を載置する部分を曲面状に形成すればよく、上記の小球 状、楕円体、半球状体、半楕円体に限らず、それらの一 部分でもよく、例えば、図8 (a) に断面説明図及び (b) に正面図に示すように支持ピン5の先端部6が滑 らかな曲面6 dに形成されればよい。

 $p_0^3 = P/\pi \cdot P/R_0 \{(1-\nu_1^2)/E_1 + (1-\nu_2^2)/E_2\}^2$  (1)

ここで、Pは支持点の全荷重、R<sub>0</sub> は支持部の曲率半 径、E」及びv」はウエハのヤング率とポアソン比、E 2 及びν2 は支持具のヤング率とポアソン比を示してい る。このヘルツの数式(1)から明らかなように、最大 接触応力poの値は、支持部の曲率半径Roに反比例す ることから、最大接触応力 po を小さくするためには、 Ro を大きくして、支持具のヤング率E2 を小さくすれ ばよい。

【0019】上記の最大接触応力po を低減させるた め、図9に具体的な一例の概略説明図を示した。図9に おいて、例えば石英ガラス等高純度珪素化合物で形成さ れる支持ピン5の先端部6に、ガラスファイバ等の繊維 状の柔軟性材料を曲面状に包囲しその端部はそれぞれ止 め具8で支持ピンに固定して柔軟曲面7が形成されてい る。この場合、柔軟曲面形状7は、必要に応じて熱加工 等により表面を滑らかすることできる。また、柔軟繊維 を布や網に紡織して、また、平滑な不織布としてから、 先端部6を所定の曲面状に被覆して柔軟曲面7を形成し てもよい。この場合、支持ピン5の先端部6は、上記の ように小球状や楕円体状の曲面形状にしてもよいし、支 持ピンの形状のままであってもよく、被覆または包囲に より、曲面半径の大きな楕円体形状に形成すればよい。

【0017】本発明のウエハポートは、上記したように 支柱の溝に嵌合配置する支持ピンの先端部の支持点が等 間隔となるように配置すると共に、実質的に被処理シリ コンウエハを載置保持する支持ピンの先端部を曲面に形 成して、シリコンウエハを面支持するものである。この ようにして、シリコンウエハへの荷重応力を軽減し、自 重たわみや変形による損傷の発生を防止できる。また、 上記のようなシリコンウエハの支持方式を採用しても、 ウエハポートを配置する熱処理炉等への熱的影響を与え ることはない。また、本発明のウエハボートにおいて、 上記支持ピンの太さを細くすることにより、支持ピンの 熱容量を抑えることができるため、シリコンウエハ面内 の温度分布を均一化して熱処理中に生じるウエハの変形 を防止することができる。

【0018】本発明のウエハボートは、上記のように熱 処理炉に用いて熱的影響もなく損傷が少なく優れたウエ ハを提供できる。一方、支持ピンの先端部に載置してウ エハを支持するため、ウエハ裏面での接触による接触応 力が増大する。特にシリコンウエハが大径化、例えば、 直径300mmφのウエハは両面ミラーとされ、裏面の ミラー面に支持ピン先端部との接触による表面欠陥の発 生を避けることは難しく、接触応力により傷を発生させ てしまうおそれがある。そのため、本発明のウエハボー トに両面ミラーウエハを載置する場合には、この点を解 消するため接触応力を減少させて適用する必要がある。 この最大接触応力(po)は、一般に下記ヘルツ(He r t z) の数式(1) により求めることができる。

上記のように柔軟性材料により支持ピンの先端部を柔軟 曲面7に形成することにより、曲率半径が大きく、且 つ、支持具のヤング率 E2 の値を小さくすることがで き、ミラーウエハ裏面への接触応力を低減できる。 [0020]

【発明の効果】本発明の縦型ウエハポートは、従来の支 柱に設けた保持溝により支持するウエハボートに異な り、支柱からボート内に伸びた支持ピンの先端部で、ウ エハの所定の内側の円周部で支持するため、ウエハが大 径化されても荷重応力が外周単支持に比して低減され自 重によるたわみを防止できる。また、実質的にウエハを 支持する先端部を曲面状に形成しウエハとは面接触して 支持することから、一点集中に比し荷重応力を緩和する と同時に、自重応力によりたわんだり、熱処理中に変形 した場合でも支持が連続し変化も極小となり、ウエハの 裏面を損傷することを抑制することができる。そのた め、製造歩留が向上すると共に、結晶のスリップや転位 の発生が減少し、髙品質のウエハを提供することがで き、高性能のデパイスへの信頼性も高くなる。

【0021】また、支柱の配置間隔、保持溝の位置、支 持ピンの傾斜角度、長さ及び間隔を適宜所定に設定する ことにより、シリコンウエハを安定かつ確実に支持ピン

上に載置することができることから、作業性、製造歩留が更に向上する。更に、支持ピンの先端部を柔軟性材料で所定形状に包囲形成することから、接触応力を低減し大径化ウエハの両面ミラーウエハを載置してもミラー面での結晶欠陥の発生を軽減することができる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明に係る縦型ウエハポートの一実施例の概略斜視説明図

【図2】図1のウエハ支持部の拡大図である。

【図3】本発明のウエハボートの支持ピンでウエハが支 10 持される模式説明図

【図4】本発明の縦型ウエハポートの他の実施例の概略 斜視説明図

【図5】本発明のウエハポートにおける支持ピン先端部とシリコンウエハとの関係の一例を示す平面説明図

(a)及びそのB-B線断面説明図(b)

【図6】本発明のウエハボートにおける支持ピン先端部とシリコンウエハとの位置関係の一例を示す平面説明図(a)及びその側面説明図(b)

【図7】本発明のウエハボートの支持ピンの先端部の他 20 の断面説明図

【図8】本発明のウエハポートの他の支持ピンの先端部の断面説明図(a)及び正面説明図(b)

【図9】本発明の接触応力を減少させる支持ピンの側面 図

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【図10】従来の縦型ウエハボートの概略説明図

【図11】従来の縦型ウエハボートの支柱の保持溝にウエハが保持された状態の平面説明図(a)及びその側面図(b)

【図12】従来の縦型ウエハボートにおいて保持溝に支持されたシリコンウエハがたわむ際の模式説明図

【図13】従来の縦型ウエハボートにおいて保持溝に支持されたシリコンウエハが膨張する際の模式説明図 【符号の説明】

SW ウエハ

1、1'、10 縦型ウエハポート

2、11底板

3、12 頂板

4、13 支柱

5 支持ピン

6、6a、6b、6c、6d 先端部

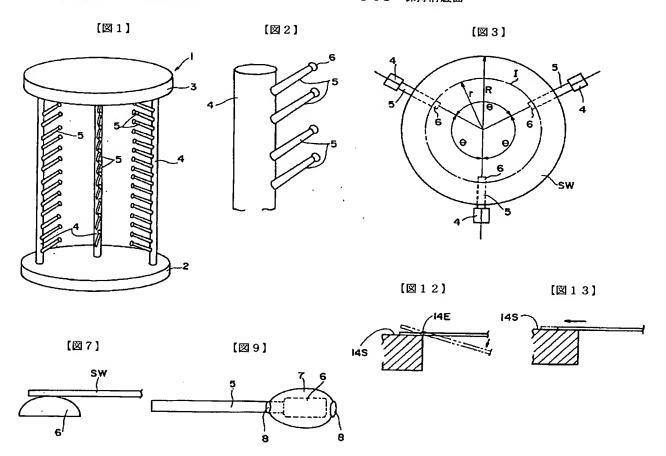
7 柔軟曲面

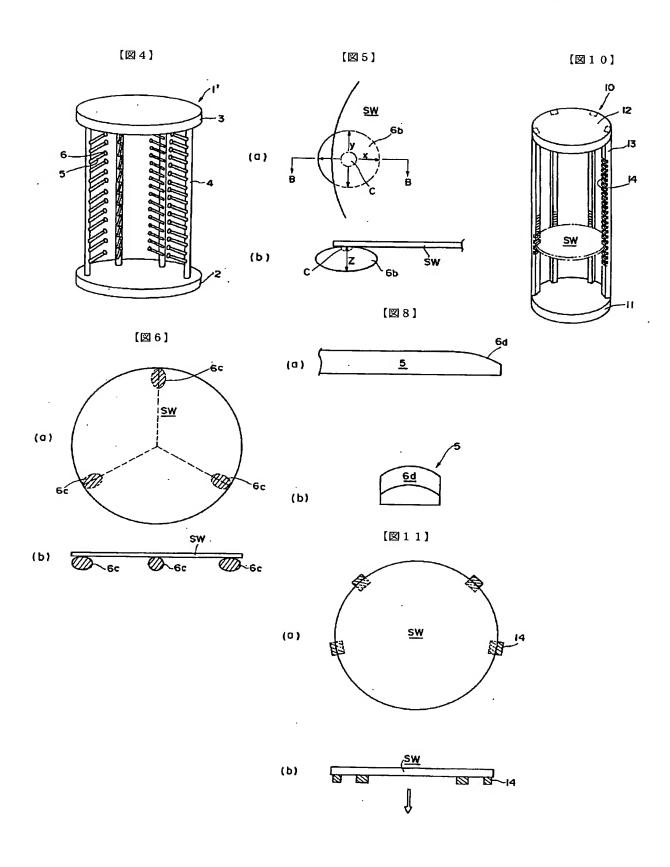
20 8 止め具

14 保持溝

14E 保持溝縁端部

148 保持滯底面





## フロントページの続き

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